

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Georgia

COUNTY:

Bibb

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Ocmulgee National Monument

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1207 Emory Hwy., East of Macon, Ga. U.S. 80, 129, 23: Ga. 87,19

CITY OR TOWN:

Macon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Eighth

STATE:

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY:

Bibb

CODE

021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☒ District ☐ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☒ Government ☒ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☒ Other (Specify)
☒ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious Artifact
☐ Entertainment ☒ Museum ☒ Scientific

4. AGENCY

Department of the Interior, National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Southeast Region

CITY OR TOWN:

Atlanta

STREET AND NUMBER:

1895 Phoenix Blvd.

STATE:

Georgia 30349

CODE

13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Bibb County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

601 Mulberry Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Macon

STATE:

Georgia

CODE

13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Archeological Base Map

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Ocmulgee National Monument

STREET AND NUMBER:

1207 Emory Hwy.

CITY OR TOWN:

Macon,

STATE:

Georgia

CODE

13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

Georgia

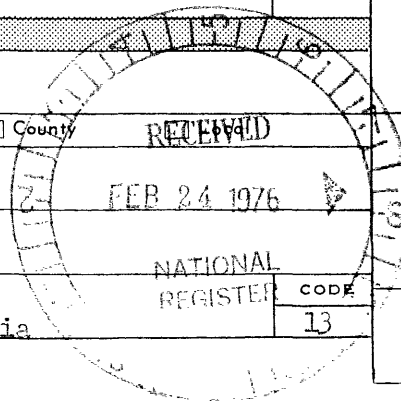
COUNTY:

Bibb

ENTRY NUMBER

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DATE



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main mound village, referred to as the Master Farmer Village, sits on a bluff overlooking the Ocmulgee River, on the east side. Two spring drainages cut through the site leaving a large central plateau on which the main mound complex and the majority of the pre-historic material was located.

Two historic railroad beds cut east-west across this plateau, leaving two detached segments from the main plateau. Excavation during the 1930s' was based on these artificially created plateau sections; hence the terms; Middle Plateau, and Temple Mound Plateau. In the Middle Plateau the outline of a five-sided Colonial Trading Post, with two entryways on the southwest side was uncovered. Analysis of artifacts found and historical associations placed the occupation period from approximately 1690 to 1715.

A majority of the pre-historic material was not associated with recognizable structures or ruins, so the entire land site of the plateau has a cultural significance. River bottom studies also show material was prevalent there too. It is felt that the present monument boundary does not contain necessarily the entire site of the pre-historic Master Farmer Village, but development outside the monument has obliterated other possible recognizable features. The ecumene of the village itself was directly associated with an area twenty miles above and below the site itself, however.

The following individual mounds and sites are recognizable as specific features within the site itself. These will be followed by the later historic sites located on the main plateau. The Lamar site will then be dealt with separately though it is a part of the monument itself, although physically separated from the main section.

MOUNDS

Seven mounds were recognized and each one was excavated into some greater or lesser degree. All were rectangular and originally had structures of some sort on them. All were probably originally covered with clay and were either red or white in appearance. For preservation and upkeep reasons, all mounds are now covered with grass. The larger ones are accessible by means of steps to their flat tops. Each mound has a popular and a scientific name which will be given.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL
REGISTER
(Number of entries)

1. GREAT TEMPLE MOUND, MOUND A, 1 Bi 2., Ocmu Site #1, Map overlay #1.

40' high, 300' E.W. by 270' N.S. Flat top measures 160' N.S. by 165' E.W. Some excavation was done but this is the most completely original of all mounds, and the largest in the park. Modern steps provide access to the top of this mound. It is built closest to the river and was probably the one most visible in all historic records. This mound is considered a prime archeological site.

Significance: 1 st Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 10" Latitude: W. 83° 36' 30"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed

2. LESSER TEMPLE MOUND, MOUND B, 1 Bi 2., Ocmu Site #2, Map overlay #2.

Located 130 feet Northeast of Great Temple Mound and intimately associated with it, both mounds may lie on a single artificial sub-mound. Presently measures 10' high, with a 75' base. Much of the mound was destroyed by the cutting of a railroad right-of-way through the village area in 1843. It is impossible to say how much was destroyed, but at least half of it was gone before any preservation or excavation was done. This mound is considered a prime archeological site.

Significance: 1st Order

Longitude; N. 32° 50' 20", Latitude; W. 86° 36' 32"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate; .00

Photographs Enclosed:

3. FUNERAL MOUND, MOUND C, 1 Bi 1., Ocmu Site #3, Map overlay #3

This, the only specific burial mound of the site, is located 1,800' N.E. of Mound A. It was originally four times its present size of 20' high and 200' E.W. by 100' N.S. Half of the mound was obliterated by an 1872 railroad cut, still in use. Half of what was left was completely excavated during the excavation of the 1930s'. Of seven recognizable levels of construction, only three now remain. This particular mound has been well reported in the literature, and published as National Park Service, Archeological Research Series #3, ARCHEOLOGY OF THE FUNERAL MOUND, Charles H. Fairbanks, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1956. (The publication is now out of print, and the original plates were accidentally destroyed, so this valuable document is now rare.) The mound top is now accessible by concrete steps that follow the path of an original pre-historic set. This mound is considered a prime archeological site.

Significance: 1st Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 20", Latitude; W. 86° 36' 40"

Recommended Treatment; Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:

This mound is considered a prime

archeological site.

00.

This mound is considered a

prime archeological site.

00.

This mound is

considered a prime archeological site.

00.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Number all entries)

4. CORNFIELD MOUND, MOUND D, 1 Bi 3, Ocmu Site #4, Overlay Map #4.

This mound is located 1,800' Northeast of the Mound A, near the visitor center, and is associated with the Earthlodge (#8). At the time of the excavations, it measured 150' to the side and was 8' high. Extensive excavations through the mound to original ground surface revealed one of the finest preserved pre-historic farm plots yet found in the world. Only minimal backfill was done so the mound does not have its original appearance at this time. This mound is considered a prime archeological site.

Significance: 1st Order

Longitude: N. 32° 51' 30", Latitude: W. 86° 36' 13"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation - Adaptive Restoration

Preliminary Cost Estimate: 10,000.00

Photographs Enclosed:

5. MC DOUGAL MOUND, 1 Bi 5, Ocmu Site #5, Map Overlay #5

This mound remnant is located 2,200' North of the Cornfield Mound at the N.W. boundary of the monument. It measures 100' N.S. by 40' E.W. and is fifteen feet high. It has a domed appearance now as the result of major destruction to a large portion of it for road fill in the early 1900s'. Excavations were made into the mound in the 1930s', and is presently stabilized. In 1854, it was reported to be 100' to the side and 30' high. This mound is considered a prime archeological site.

Significance: 2nd Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 48", Latitude: W. 83° 36' 30"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:

6. SOUTHEAST MOUND, 1 Bi 4, Ocmu Site #6 Map overlay #6

This mound lies 1,000' South of the Cornfield mound, and is presently 3' high and 20' on the side. It was test trenched during excavation and little was found with it, although there was much evidence of use associated near it. This mound is considered a prime archeological site.

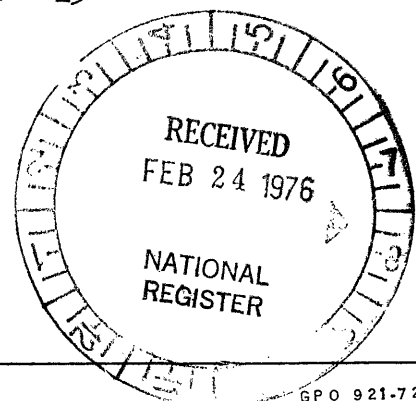
Significance: 2nd Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 21", Latitude: W. 83° 36' 15"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7. DUNLAP MOUND, 1 Bi 6, Ocmu Site #7, Map overlay #7

The smallest of the mounds, this is the furthest from the main village area. It sits at the highest elevation of the park, near the historic Dunlap House (#9). It is 1700' N.E. of the Cornfield Mound, and is 50' in diameter and 5' high. A house once stood on its platform top and its location might mean that this was the site of a Chief's house. Historic out buildings of the Dunlap Farm apparently disturbed some of the original mound. This mound is considered as a prime archeological site.

Significance: 1st Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 47", Latitude: W. 83° 36' 13"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:

8. EARTHLIDGE, 1 Bi 3, Ocmu Site #8, Map overlay #8

This is a unique structure, it is the only completely preserved floor of a building of this type yet found from American pre-history. It has been restored to what is believed to be its original appearance. The original floor is 40' across and wall remnants remain to a height of 3'. This construction was of native red clay. The floor was designed with a seating area of fifty separate seats around the circumference of the room and a unique effigy platform in the shape of a bird is placed along the west wall. There is a central firepit, 3' across and 1' deep. There are four post hole pits, which held the original roof support timbers. There is a 20' long low entryway passage that has been restored. The new wood roof has cane supports and a concrete shell, top sodded over. It rises to 11' interior height. Radio-carbon dating of the original timbers indicate the structure was built sometime near A.D. 1015. This is the earliest date known for an earthlodge of this type, which existed into the 1800s', and is one of the oldest public buildings in the United States. It is presently accessible and is an important part of the monument interpretive program as well as a priceless archeological treasure. This lodge is considered as a prime archeological site.

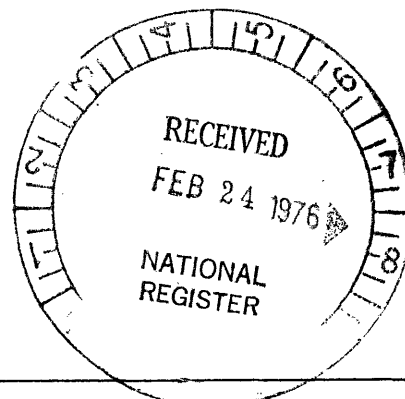
Significance: 1st Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 29", Latitude W. 86° 36' 12"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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NATIONAL REGISTER
(Number of entries)

9. DUNLAP HOUSE, Residence #1, Ocmu Site #9, Map overlay #9.

A one story six room frame weatherboard structure on a brick foundation; this house was built in 1856, and one of the oldest houses in Macon. There were two chimneys that served four fireplaces. It was refurbished in 1939 and modernized with interior facilities in 1952 for use as the Superintendent's residence. It is historically associated with the defence of Macon during the Civil War, and was used as a command post both by Macon Reserves and Federals. The city was shelled from this spot during the Stoneman raid of July and August of 1864, giving Macon the Cannonball House, and a few scary days.

Significance: 2nd Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 45", Latitude: W. 83° 36' 12"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:

10. Civil War FORTIFICATION, Ocmu Site #10, Map overlay #10.

This is an earthen embankment located 800' S.E. of the Dunlap House, and is assumed to be a part of the Federal emplacements associated with the 1864 Stoneman Raid that took place here. It is a three-sided lopsided earthen construction measuring 4 to 5 feet high and the walls are 20' thick. It extends southeast 150' in a curve, angles 90 degrees for 120' to form a north face (nearest the Dunlap House), then turns 90 degrees west for 75' leaving a 30' entrance gap at the S.W. No excavation or testing has been done on the embankment itself, nor in the area inside and around it. Such a project has been programmed.

Significance: 2nd Order

Longitude: N. 32° 50' 43", Latitude: W. 83° 36' 10"

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:

11. LAMAR MOUND A. (Large Rectangular) 2 Bi 7, Ocmu Site #11, Map overlay #11.

Mound A is a large rectangular truncated mound located in the Lamar Village site dating between A.D. 1350 to perhaps the beginning of the historic period in 1540. The village palisade enclosed 21½ acres, but the present holdings are about 40 acres. It is located three miles down the east side of the Ocmulgee River below the Macon Plateau site. This mound is considered as a prime archeological site.

Significance: 1st Order

Longitude: N. 32° 48' 44", Latitude: W. 83° 35' 35".

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
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(Number all entries)

12. LAMAR MOUND B. (Small Spiral Mound) 2 Bi 7, Ocmu Site #12, Map overlay#12

Is distinct in that it is a spiral design, rounded, with a spiral ramp that ascends to the platform top. It too was enclosed in the palisade fence line of the Lamar Village. This mound is considered as a prime archeological site.

Significance: 1st Order

Longitude: N. 32° 48' 44". Latitude: W. 83° 35' 25".

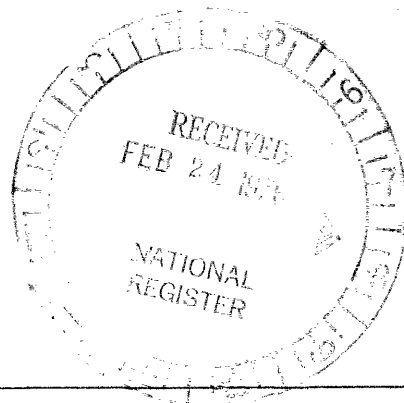
Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate: .00

Photographs Enclosed:

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Min	Sec	Degrees	Min	Sec
NW	83	35	30	32	48	34
SW	83	35	51	32	48	25
NE	83	35	19	32	48	34
SE	83	35	36	32	48	25

Map grids for the Lamar property are listed above. It is on the same map as the main Ocmulgee National Monument property.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☒ Pre-Columbian
☒ 15th Century

☒ 16th Century
☒ 17th Century

☒ 18th Century
☒ 19th Century

☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☒ Prehistoric

☒ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☒ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☒ Religion/Philosophy

☒ Science

☐ Sculpture

☒ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☒ Other (Specify)

Anthropological

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1st Order

The opinion of noted Smithsonian Institution archeologists who did extensive studies of the Indian mounds at Ocmulgee in the 1930's found that this group comprises one of the most important centers of archeology east of the Appalachian mountains. Their findings demonstrated the necessity of preserving these ancient remains of architecture. The site revealed 10,000 years of human use of this place. And the talkative soil revealed a chronology of six prehistoric levels of civilization whose outlines are still recognized as the basis for southern prehistory. The seven mounds of the Macon Plateau group are of the Mississippi Period. The detached Lamar area with its two mounds are of later period, adding to the continuity of the story.

Over a million bits of pottery and flint artifacts were unearthed here. The design and workmanship document the artistic craftsmanship of these long faded cultures. Ceremonial burials as well as the mounds themselves point up an advancing animatized religion and building practices. The anthropological advancement gained at Ocmulgee is inestimable.

Another important presentation of the prolific "Ocmulgee Old Fields" was the discovery of a Colonial trading house. There is but meager evidence of this early period of European contact in the interior of the Southeast and is deemed worthy of preservation.

Post-Indian use is represented by an ante-bellum farm house, known as the Dunlap house. In the past century this area was a typical farm and the house testifies outwardly to this period and should be preserved because of the atmosphere it reflects visually.

The only military skirmishes during the Civil War that brought the present town of Macon within sound of shot took place around the Dunlap house. The only physical evidence of this action remaining is an earthwork fortification a short distance behind the house. Other such fortifications around the town have been obliterated: this last example should be preserved.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fairbanks, Charles H. - 1956, ARCHEOLOGY OF THE FUNERAL MOUND,
Archeological Research Series #3, National Park
Service, Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.

Kelly, A.R. - 1938, A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ARCHEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS
AT MACON, GA., Anthropological Papers #1, Smithsonian
Institute, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin #119,
Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	83° 37' 0"	32° 51' 50"		°	'	"
NE	83° 35' 25"	32° 51' 50"				
SE	83° 35' 25"	32° 49' 38"		FOR UTM readings see continuation sheet.		
SW	83° 37' 6"	32° 49' 38"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 683.48

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Norman N. Ritchie, Archeologist (Revised 10/75, Bernard Berg)		DATE: 12/18/73
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Ocmulgee National Monument		
STREET AND NUMBER: 1207 Emory Hwy.		PHONE: 912-742-0447
CITY OR TOWN: Macon	STATE: Georgia	CODE: 13

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby
nominate this property to the National Register, certify-
ing that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90
days in which to present the nomination to the State Re-
view Board and to evaluate its significance. The recom-
mended level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State

[Signature] FEB 19 1976
Federal Representative Signature Date
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the
National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

for *[Signature]* 12-8-78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Date 12-8-78

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

UTM References - Ocmulgee National Monument

Historic Site

- A) 17/257740/3637360 *c*
- B) 17/257710/3635000
- C) 17/257000/3635000
- D) ✓ 17/254100/3636180
- E) 17/255880/3637380 *c*

Great Temple Mound

17/255845/3635980

Lesser Temple Mound

17/255840/3636079

Funeral Mound

17/255650/3636300 •

McDougal Mound

17/255910/3637040

Southeast Mound

17/256410/3636230

Dunlap Mound

17/256340/3636930

Earthlodge

17/257170/3636440

Dunlap House

17/256370/3636960

Civil War Fortifications

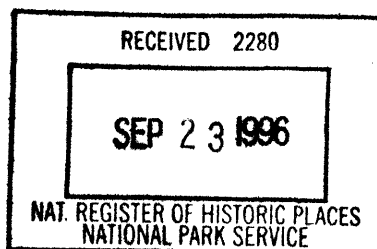
17/256490/3636940

Lamar Mounds

- A) 17/257520/3633440
- B) 17/257560/3633080
- C) 17/257090/3633020
- D) 17/257040/3633390

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ocmulgee National Monument (Amendment)

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1207 Emery Highway

city or town Macon not for publication _____
state Georgia code GA county Bibb vicinity _____
zip code 31201 code 021

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald Bowen 9/20/96
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
_____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
_____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
_____ removed from the National Register _____
✓ other (explain): Additional Documentation Accepted

Edson H. Beall
Signature of Keeper

10.17.96
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

_____ private
_____ public-local
_____ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

_____ building(s)
☒ district
_____ site
_____ structure
_____ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed properties in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 13

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE/fortification
RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/
marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park
RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/
marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: trench
Other: storage pit
Other: earthen mound
Other: flagstaff

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation:
walls:
roof:
other: earth; concrete; metal

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
☐ B removed from its original location.
☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
☐ D a cemetery.
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
☒ F a commemorative property.
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY/historic-aboriginal
ARCHAEOLOGY/prehistoric
ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
ETHNIC HERITAGE/Native American
MILITARY
OTHER/commemoration

Period of Significance

A.D. 900-1100
A.D. 1250-1650
1690-1715; 1936-1951

Significant Dates

1937
1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Mississippian
Lower Creek

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☒ previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

☒ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 702.08

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	257740	3637360	D	17	254100	3636180
B	17	257710	3635000	E	17	255880	3637380
C	17	257000	3635000	F	___	___	___
___ See continuation sheet.							

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The existing district boundary will not change.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer D. Brown, Historian

organization National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

date January 31, 1996

street & number 75 Spring Street, S.W. telephone (404)331-2608

city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30303

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name National Park Service

street & number P.O. Box 37127 telephone _____

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20013-7127

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**Ocmulgee National Monument
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Ocmulgee National Monument was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Keeper of the National Register accepted the documentation for the district in 1978. The initial documentation included nine prehistoric Indian mounds, the reconstructed Earthlodge, the Dunlap House, the Civil War fortification, and the Visitor Center. The nomination also included the area within park boundaries, including both the main unit and the Lamar Mounds unit, as an archeological site.

This amendment identifies five additional contributing structures that were included but not individually listed in the earlier nominations. The first three structures, the Lamar palisade trenches, prehistoric trenches, and Mound X, are all significant because of their associations with prehistoric architecture and archeology on the Macon Plateau. The corn storage pits are significant as visible structural remains from the historic Creek occupation of the Ocmulgee Old Fields. Finally, the flagstaff is significant because of its association with the commemorative development of Ocmulgee National Monument. In addition to individually listing these five structures, this amendment also identifies five non-contributing structures within the district and clarifies the Visitor Center's significance as a part of park development.

Description of Contributing Properties

Lamar Palisade Trenches

The palisade trenches are the approximately five- to ten-feet-wide ditch remains of a palisade and trench system that once encircled the Lamar village and mounds. National Park Service archeologists excavated the Lamar palisade before construction of a levee at the site between 1939 and 1941. Vegetation, including some hardwood trees, covers the trenches at present. The palisaded Lamar village was built around A.D. 1350, in the Late Mississippian period, on a hammock in the midst of a river swamp.¹ The palisade originally enclosed approximately 21.5 acres and ran for a distance of 3,560 feet. Archeological investigations found post holes in double or triple lines along most of the length of the trench, indicating placement of

¹David M. Brewer and Susan Hammersten, *Archeological Overview and Assessment of the Lamar Mounds Unit of OCMU* (Tallahassee, Fl.: Southeast Archeological Center, 1991), 17.

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posts forming the palisade. These holes are from six to twelve inches in diameter and have an average depth of eighteen inches; they are spaced approximately twelve inches apart from center to center. The palisade was essentially an open or picket fence about 12 feet high. The trench itself generally follows the outline of the palisade and formed a ditch or moat which probably served a defensive function for the village.² (structure; IDLCS 91394)

Mound X

The remains of this low earthen mound, built in the Early Mississippian period, A.D. 900 - 1100, are located north of the Earthlodge and the Cornfield Mound. Mound X is seventy-five feet in diameter and three to five feet tall. Currently, it is covered with high grasses. Archeological investigations in the 1930s did not examine this mound; Williams and Henderson first identified it in 1974 in their study, *The Archeology of the Macon North Plateau*. This report classified the mound as a severely eroded house site and reported evidence of post holes at the mound.³ (structure; IDLCS 91395)

Prehistoric Trenches

Two roughly parallel arcs of prehistoric trenches, or dugouts, are found on the north, northeast, southeast, and south sides of the Macon Plateau village. These long, oval earthen trenches are actually a series of independent excavations. The northeastern trench measures approximately 40 feet long, 18 feet wide, and seven feet deep. The portion of the trench west of the Cornfield Mound is divided into three end-to-end segments, all of which are around 18 feet wide and seven feet deep. The north segment of this group measures approximately 120 feet long, while the middle segment is 150 feet and the western, 90 feet long. Measurements are not available for the southern extension of the trench system. In the prehistoric period, clay lined the trenches, but grass covers them at present to limit erosion at the site.⁴ This Early Mississippian period feature probably once encircled the entire village, either as a defensive structure protecting the village from

²Brewer and Hammersten, 16-17.

³J. Mark Williams and Joseph N. Henderson, *The Archeology of the Macon North Plateau*, 1974, 38.

⁴Historic Resources Management Plan, 1978, II-29.

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attack or as a borrow pit for the construction of the mounds.⁵ (structure; IDLCS 91396)

Corn Storage Pits

Three to five rounded hollows in the ground with average depths of three to four feet are the only structural remains associated with the British Colonial trading post period on the Macon Plateau, 1690-1715. Archeological investigations on the plateau during the 1930s identified a number of historic aboriginal refuse pits, many of which contained charred corn cobs. As a result, the features became known as corn storage pits.⁶ The pits were included in the original documentation for Ocmulgee as part of the archeological site encompassing the entire park. This amendment adds the above-ground pits as contributing structures within the district.
(structure; IDLCS 91397)

Flagstaff

A fifty-foot-high, single piece metal flagpole stands north of the Visitor Center. It has a two-tier, square concrete base measuring nine feet on all sides. A two-tier, octagonal concrete column from which the pole rises sits atop the square bases. The concrete is painted red and the pole, silver. A bronze plaque on the southern side of the column reads: "In recognition of the pioneer work of/ Walter Alexander Harris/ Charles Cotton Harrold/ Linton Munroe Solomon/ In the Establishment of Ocmulgee National Monument/ This Tablet is Erected by the Kiwanis Club/ of the City of Macon, Georgia/ October 1st, 1941." John Dennis, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Macon, designed the plaque. The Kiwanis Club presented the plaque to the park in honor of the three club members influential in the establishment of the national park at Ocmulgee.⁷ (structure; IDLCS 91398)

Description of Previously Listed Contributing Properties

Great Temple Mound

The Great Temple Mound, or Mound A, is a 300-foot-wide by 270-foot-long by 40-foot-high, flat-top temple mound built during the Early Mississippian period, A.D. 900-1100. It is constructed of layers of earth and covered with

⁵Williams and Henderson, 32, 35.

⁶Mason, "Historic Archaeology."

⁷"Kiwanis Club Unveils Plaque Honoring 'Pioneers' in Development of Monument," Macon (Ga.) News, 1 October 1941.

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vegetation. The National Park Service built wood stairs on the north face of the mound and a wood deck at the top for visitor use. The mound served as the principal religious structure of Native Americans living on the Macon Plateau from A.D. 900 to A.D. 1200. A stair-stepped, earthen ramp in the center of the north face originally led to the top of the mound, where one or more buildings were located. It is the largest remaining mound on the plateau. (structure; IDLCS 05086)

Lesser Temple Mound

The Lesser Temple Mound, or Mound B, is a flat-top pyramid, ten feet tall, constructed of layers of earth and covered with vegetation. The mound was built during the Early Mississippian period occupation of the Macon Plateau. Railroad construction destroyed three-quarters of the mound in 1843; evidence of the cut remains on the north side of the mound, which is very steep. The National Park Service placed a wood stairway with concrete pad at the base on the south face of the mound to provide visitor access to the top. (structure; IDLCS 05087)

Funeral Mound

The Funeral Mound, or Mound C, is a burial mound approximately 60 feet wide by 200 feet long by 20 feet high. It was constructed during the Early Mississippian period of seven layers of earth, only three of which now remain. Vegetation covers the slopes of the mound. The construction of a railroad cut in 1872 obliterated half of the mound, and excavations in the 1930s further altered its shape. The National Park Service built a concrete stairway on the west side of the mound and a three- to four-foot-high concrete wall on the north side. The Funeral Mound was the only specific burial mound located on the Macon Plateau, and excavations revealed more than 100 Native American graves. (structure; IDLCS 01188)

Cornfield Mound

The Cornfield Mound, or Mound D, is a 90-foot-wide by 160-foot-long by 6-foot-high earthen mound covered with vegetation. Excavation of a 75-foot-long by 50-foot-wide portion of the mound in the 1930s revealed a prehistoric agricultural field, dating from the Early Mississippian period, A.D. 900-1100. The original mound was rectangular and nine to ten feet high and was not restored after excavation. (structure; IDLCS 05088)

McDougal Mound

The McDougal Mound is an earthen mound with conical top measuring 100 feet long by 40 feet wide by 15 feet high built in the Early Mississippian period, A.D. 900-1100. Road construction which used dirt from the mound for fill

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destroyed more than half of the mound around 1900; excavations in the 1930s also altered the mound. In 1854, the mound reportedly measured 100 feet long and 30 feet high. According to *Butler's History of Macon*, the mound was the burial site in 1809 of Captain Robert McDougal, Commandant of nearby Fort Hawkins, as well as his brother. There is no official documentation, however, and the burials were not found during the 1930s excavations. Vegetation covers the mound at present. (structure; IDLCS 01181)

Southeast Mound

The Southeast Mound is a round-top earthen mound covered with vegetation built during the Early Mississippian period occupation of the Macon Plateau; it is approximately 20 feet long by 20 feet wide by three feet high. Prior to its excavation in the 1930s, the mound measured 30 feet long by 50 feet wide. (structure; IDLCS 05089)

Dunlap Mound

The Dunlap Mound is a five-foot-high round-top mound constructed of layers of earth, with a diameter of fifty feet and a circumference of 300 feet. Vegetation covers the mound to limit erosion. Prior to excavations in the 1930s, the mound measured 100 feet wide by six feet high. The mound originally had a platform top, which probably served as a house site during the Early Mississippian period, A.D. 900-1100. (structure; IDLCS 01180)

Earthlodge

The Earthlodge is a reconstruction of a prehistoric earthlodge structure built of poured concrete with steel reinforcement. The structure, built between 1933 and 1938, has a circumference of 365 feet. The interior floor and up to three feet of the interior wall is original clay construction. The floor features fifty seats circling the room, an eagle effigy platform on the west end, and a central fire pit. The reconstructed interior includes local clay brick walls with clay veneer, local cane ceiling cover, and a 1975 glass and wood barrier and platform constructed by the National Park Service to protect the original clay floor from visitors. The ceiling is 11 feet high. Four hollow pine logs mask steel I-beam support posts placed in original post holes. The entrance is on the east side and extends from the circular floor to form a hallway with ceiling height of approximately five feet. The exterior entrance has log posts and lintel. Sod covers the concrete shell on the exterior. Radio carbon dating of the original roof timbers indicates that the interior floor dates from around A.D. 1015. (structure; IDLCS 01186)

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Lamar Mound A

Mound A at the Lamar village site is a large rectangular truncated mound measuring approximately 610 feet around its entire base. Dense vegetation, including large hardwood trees, covers the mound. The mound dates from the Late Mississippian period, A.D. 1250-1650; a portion of the mound was excavated in the 1930s. (structure; IDLCS 01187)

Lamar Mound B

Mound B, or the Small Spiral Mound, at the Lamar village site is a rounded earthen mound with a circumference of 430 feet built during the Late Mississippian period. The mound has a spiral earth ramp that ascends to the platform top; dense vegetation, including large hardwood trees, obscures the mound. Lamar Mound B has not been excavated. (structure; IDLCS 05092)

Dunlap House

The Dunlap House is a one-story, hip-roofed house with boxed cornice. The house originally had a central-hall plan with four rooms. The front faces north and has five bays, with a center wood panel door with transom and side lights. Windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash. A rear-facing gable projects from the center of the hipped roof on the south side. Two interior brick chimneys originally serviced four fireplaces. Alterations to the building include: the addition of full-length screen porch with square support posts on the front; a rear ell extension on the west; a screen porch addition on the rear; in-fill of original brick pier foundation with brick wall; and a reconfiguration of the original floor plan, placing a bedroom in a portion of the central hall and adding a kitchen and utility room, in 1952. The house was built in 1856 and is one of the oldest houses still standing in Macon. It is historically associated with the Stoneman Raid of Macon by federal troops during the Civil War. (building; IDLCS 05090)

Civil War Fortification

The Civil War Fortification is a roughly triangular earthwork measuring 150 feet by 120 feet by 75 feet. The walls of the earthwork are 20 feet thick and four to five feet high and are covered with vegetation. The fortification served as a Confederate gun emplacement associated with the defense of Macon and the Central Railroad trestle over Walnut Creek during the 1864 Stoneman Raid. (structure; IDLCS 05091)

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is a one-story, Art Moderne style building with a full basement built between 1938 and 1951 by the National Park Service. The

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exterior is yellow stucco with red-brown trim, and the building has a flat roof. The original portion of the structure has a streamlined appearance with rounded corners and smooth wall surfaces. The door surround and clerestory windows are glass brick; the windows are awning casement type. The plan is irregular, with the main entrance through a rotunda and an array of offices and exhibit rooms to the rear and side. A molded geometric frieze near the top of the exterior wall imitates the decoration on a Lamar Bold Incised pottery vessel. A wide terrace wraps around the south and east sides of the rotunda. A stair on the south side of the terrace is on direct axis with the center of the Earthlodge dome, and an asphalt path connects the two structures. The north side has a later, one-story addition containing an auditorium, offices, and museum storage area. (building; IDLCS 91399)

Description of Non-Contributing Properties

Lamar Levee

The Lamar Levee is an earthen structure with concrete drain pipes and sub-structure. Built by the National Park Service between 1939 and 1941, the levee is approximately 65 feet wide and encircles the Lamar village site. Grass grows on the top and the slopes of the levee, with young trees growing at slope break and large trees at its base. The levee protects the Lamar mounds from flooding at Black Lake from the Ocmulgee River. The levee does not contribute to the areas or periods of significance for the Ocmulgee National Monument; it is a utilitarian structure and not part of the commemorative development at the park.

Brick Drain Culvert

The brick drain culvert is approximately six feet wide and four feet high and is located at the fence line in the southwest corner of the park. It was built between 1900 and 1930 of red brick masonry laid in common bond with an arch defined by voussoir headers. Heavy vegetation covers the culvert. The culvert does not contribute to the areas or periods of significance for the Ocmulgee National Monument, nor does it have sufficient integrity to warrant listing.

Clay Mining Cart Road Trace

The clay mining cart road trace is the remains of an abandoned clay mining cart road, used between 1850 and 1900, that runs adjacent to Walnut Creek for several hundred feet. The trace is approximately 5 feet wide with 45 degree slopes on the sides. It is currently used as the Opelofa hiking trail. Insufficient information is available to support the nomination of the trace to the National Register.

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Pump House

The pump house is a four-foot-square concrete structure with curved concrete slab roof located between the southern side of the active railroad line and the Southeast Mound. The front faces north and has a square opening; the interior has a concrete floor. The building dates from the period 1900 to 1930. The pump house does not contribute to the areas or periods of significance for the Ocmulgee National Monument; it is a utilitarian structure and not part of the commemorative development of the park.

Railroad Building Ruins

At least two building ruins, dating from the period 1870 to 1930, stand between the Southern Railroad line and the Southeast Mound trail. The buildings measure from 100 to 150 feet long and 25 to 50 feet wide with two to three feet of the foundation remaining above ground. The ruin closest to the Southeast trail has a large concrete pit on the west side with a ramp descending into it on the south. The ruins do not contribute to the areas or periods of significance for the Ocmulgee National Monument. The functions of the structures are unknown, and they lack sufficient integrity for listing.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The National Register documentation for Ocmulgee National Monument nominated the site as a nationally significant district in the areas of prehistoric and historic archeology and architecture. The Lamar palisade trenches, Mound X, and the prehistoric trenches are added under Criteria C and D as contributing features under the original statement of significance regarding prehistoric archeology and architecture on the Macon Plateau. The corn storage pits are added to the National Register under Criteria C and D as part of a new historic context regarding the Creek Indian occupation of the Macon Plateau during the Colonial period. The Visitor Center was added to the National Register in 1979 for architecture. Its significance is expanded to include its role in the commemorative development of Ocmulgee National Monument, and the flagstaff is also added under the new park development context.

I. Integrity of the Prehistoric Structures

The prehistoric trenches, Lamar palisade trenches, and Mound X have retained integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. Erosion and archeological excavations of the prehistoric trenches and the Lamar palisade trenches have negatively impacted integrity of design somewhat, although the structures are in stable condition at present. Mound X has also been severely impacted by erosion, and its integrity of design has been diminished as a result. It is currently in stable condition, with grasses on the mound limiting further erosion. All three of the structures retain integrity as archeological resources that have yielded information about prehistoric Native Americans in the past and which might yield further information in the future.

II. Native American Occupation of the Macon Plateau, 1690-1715

A. Context Narrative

The settlement of the English colony at Charles Town in 1670 was a benchmark in the history of the Southeast and had a dramatic impact on the group of Creek Indians who would occupy the Ocmulgee Old Fields from 1690 to 1715. In 1663, Charles II of England granted to eight of his subjects, the Lords Proprietors, a vast amount of land comprising the entire area between the northern boundary of North Carolina and the southern boundary of Georgia, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.⁸ The settlement of Charles Town on the Carolina coast was a commercial venture; the success of the colony depended

⁸Carol Irwin Mason, "The Archaeology of Ocmulgee Old Fields, Macon, Georgia" (Ph.D. diss., University of Michigan, 1963, draft), 7-8.

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upon the sale of land to settlers, the export of agricultural products to Europe, and, foremost, trade with natives for valuable deerskins and other products.⁹

The Spanish preceded the English to the New World and settled parts of Florida and the Atlantic Coast using the mission system, which sought to convert the natives to Christianity and a sedentary, agricultural way of life. Thus the Spanish population was limited primarily to priests and soldiers. While the Spanish valued trade with the natives, they did not possess adequate economic and manufacturing resources to compete with the English. The Carolinians supplied their native trading partners with a number of useful tools, including guns, that the Spanish could not or would not provide. The superiority of English trade, combined with their lack of interest in conversion of the Indians to Christianity, gave the Carolinians a distinct advantage over the Spanish with their Native American trading partners.¹⁰

The Lower Creek nation occupied the valley of the Chattahoochee River south of the Fall Line during the mid-seventeenth century. While the Creeks were initially removed from Spanish influence to the south, by the 1670s they were feeling increasingly threatened by both the Spanish and hostile neighboring tribes. The Creeks sought a military alliance with the English in Charles Town between 1670 and 1680 but were unsuccessful because of the existing relationship between the Carolinians and the Westo Indians.¹¹

By 1680 the alliance between the English settlers and the Westo had crumbled, and trade with the Lower Creeks on the Chattahoochee formally opened five years later. Henry Woodward, an English explorer and trader, arrived in the Creek town of Coweta, near the present city of Columbus, in 1685, and the Indians built a trading house and stockade for him. The Spanish were outraged by this encroachment of their territory by the English and sent forth Antonio Matheo, the Spanish commander of Apalachee, and 250 men to expel the traders from the area. The Creeks protected the Carolinians, however, and the Spanish were able only to burn Woodward's trading post. Several months later, Matheo returned to find that English trade had resumed in full force. He again was unable to locate the traders, but this time he burned four northern Creek towns, including Coweta, for their refusal to

⁹David H. Corkran, *The Creek Frontier* (Norman, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 49.

¹⁰Mason, "Ocmulgee Old Fields," 10-11.

¹¹Corkran, 49.

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submit to Spanish authority. By 1689 the Spanish had built a fort near Coweta to keep the English out of the Lower Creek towns.¹²

In response to the retaliatory actions of the Spanish and the lure of English trade, the occupants of Coweta and several other Creek towns moved eighty miles east to the banks of the Ocmulgee River, then known to the English as Ochese Creek. There they were free of Spanish influence and enjoyed an uninterrupted trade with the Carolinians. Thus, by 1690 the Creeks had established themselves at the town on the Ocmulgee River that today is part of the Ocmulgee National Monument.¹³

The exact identity of the town established on the Ocmulgee in the shadows of the prehistoric Indian mounds has been debated. Carol Irwin Mason, in her research on the historic period at Ocmulgee, concluded that the name of the town was Ocmulgee; however, Marvin T. Smith, writing on the historic period archeology of north Georgia, disagreed with this conclusion, asserting that the town was more likely Cusitee (Kasihta).¹⁴

Whatever the name of the town, it was certainly near the center of the era's most important Carolinian commercial outposts. The Ochese Creek communities served not only as the most important trading stations for the Carolinians, but they also became an important starting point for English exploration and expansion of trade westward. Furthermore, the English could launch campaigns against the Spanish from the towns along the Ochese when necessary.¹⁵

Virtually all of the Ochese Creek settlements had their own trading posts. Typically, Charles Town merchants managed the Indian trade through companies formed by several men in partnership. Many of the Indian towns had their own traders, who conducted business exclusively with that one community. While little or no specific historic documentation has been located regarding the trading post in Ocmulgee Town, it may be assumed that it operated much the same there as elsewhere during the same period. Thus one trader probably resided at the post with one or two assistants who aided in the transport of goods to and from the coastal settlements and the Indian town.¹⁶

¹²Ibid., 50-51.

¹³Mason, "Ocmulgee Old Fields," 11-15.

¹⁴Marvin T. Smith, *Historic Period Indian Archeology of Northern Georgia* (Atlanta: Georgia State University, 1990), 45.

¹⁵Mason, "Ocmulgee Old Fields," 15.

¹⁶Ibid., 33-34.

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Archeological investigations during the 1930s on the Macon Plateau unearthed the footing ditch of a colonial-era trading post. Excavations revealed that the structure was pentagonal, with a palisade around the outside and at least two buildings within the walls. The Lower Creek town surrounded the structure and encompassed much of the Ocmulgee Old Fields area. Although there were many archeological finds at the site, the only remaining structural features from the historic occupation of the Creeks are the corn storage pits.¹⁷

The occupation of the Ocmulgee Old Fields during the historic period by the Creeks was short-lived. Years of abuse by the English traders, combined with the constant expansion of English settlement westward and accumulating debts owed to the English, led the Indians to strike out in 1715, murdering English traders and looting their posts. Traders in the Ochesee Creek settlements were the primary targets of the uprising, and it is likely that the trader or traders at Ocmulgee shared the fate of other Carolinians killed in the first days of the Yemassee War.¹⁸

The campaign against the English was unsuccessful, and after two years the Creeks sought peace and re-established trade with the Carolinians. Peace resulted in the permanent abandonment of the Ocmulgee Old Fields by the Creeks in 1716. Departure of the tribe left the valley totally void of Native Americans, and it would remain so to the present. Thus, the absolute dates for the historic occupation of the Ocmulgee settlement are 1690 to 1715.¹⁹

B. Integrity

The original documentation for Ocmulgee National Monument included the British Colonial trading post site as part of the nationally significant archeological site within park boundaries. The corn storage pits represent the only surviving structural remains from the historic period Native American occupation of the Ocmulgee Old Fields. As such, they contribute to the knowledge of historic Native American culture around the time of early European contact and influence. The corn storage pits are eligible under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as functional structures built and utilized by the Creek Indians on the Macon Plateau during the historic period. They also are eligible under National Register Criterion D in the area of historic archeology due to their status as part of

¹⁷Ibid., 43-45.

¹⁸Ibid., 16-17.

¹⁹Ibid., 17.

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one of the most intact historic period Native American archeological sites in the Southeast. The pits contribute to the national significance of Ocmulgee National Monument under the context of Native American life on the Macon Plateau during the colonial period.

The corn storage pits have retained integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. The pits are in stable condition, with grass growing on them to limit erosion. To a limited extent, excavation of the pits during the 1930s altered their integrity of design; however, they largely retain integrity as archeological resources that have yielded archeological information in the past and might yield additional information in the future.

C. Contributing Properties under Context A:

Corn storage pits (1690-1715)

III. The Development of Ocmulgee National Monument

A. Context Narrative

The significance of the Visitor Center and the flagstaff relates to the establishment and early development of Ocmulgee National Monument. The Ocmulgee Old Fields were long known to be the site of an ancient Indian culture, yet little interest was taken in their archeological value until the 1920s. General Walter A. Harris, a Macon attorney, was interested in the potential of the area and first contacted the Bureau of American Ethnology concerning acquisition and preservation of the site in 1922. No action resulted from this initial contact, and Harris wrote the Bureau again seven years later, this time suggesting that the city of Macon provide funding for excavations by the Smithsonian. The letter produced a visit to the site by Bureau Chief Matthew Stirling and a subsequent recommendation that excavations be undertaken, but again no action resulted.²⁰

Harris was elected president of the Macon Historical Society in 1932 and, in that capacity, continued to promote the preservation of the mound site. A year later Harris organized a meeting of all individuals in the state interested in archeology, which resulted in the formation of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. Dr. Charles C. Harrold was elected president of the new organization, Linton M. Solomon was elected secretary, and Harris was named chairman of the executive committee. The society, under the direction of

²⁰Alan Marsh, *Ocmulgee National Monument: An Administrative History*, (Washington: National Park Service, 1986), 7.

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these three men, all Macon residents, was committed to the preservation and excavation of the Ocmulgee mounds.²¹

In November 1933, Harris and Harrold convinced the Macon Junior Chamber of Commerce of the importance of the Ocmulgee site, and the Chamber obtained options to purchase Mound A as well as several of the other mounds.²² At the same time, the society promoted the preservation of Ocmulgee on the national level through contact with Smithsonian officials and local Congressional representatives.²³

In 1933, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) approved funding for eleven archeological projects to be directed by the Smithsonian, including excavations at Ocmulgee. The success of excavations at the Marksville site in Louisiana by unskilled CWA laborers under the direction of Smithsonian archaeologists encouraged CWA administrators to undertake similar projects at other sites. Initial work at Ocmulgee began in December 1933 under the direction of archaeologists Arthur R. Kelly and James A. Ford.²⁴

The early excavations at Ocmulgee were extremely successful, attracting a great deal of national attention. The success reinforced the convictions of Harris and other local leaders regarding the significance of the mounds, and they encouraged Georgia Congressman Carl Vinson to explore the possibility of establishing a national park at Ocmulgee. In February 1934 Vinson introduced a bill into Congress to acquire 2,000 acres of the Ocmulgee Old Fields for the creation of a national park. The bill became law on June 14, 1934.²⁵

The act creating the Ocmulgee National Monument stipulated that land be donated to the National Park Service before the park could be formally established. While the Macon Historical Society, the Society for Georgia Archaeology, and the Macon Junior Chamber of Commerce began to purchase land prior to the passage of the act creating the monument, their efforts were hampered by financial constraints. Despite repeated attempts by Harris, Harrold, and others to unite Macon civic groups and citizens to raise funds for the purchase of the land, acquisition proceeded slowly and was primarily

²¹John W. Walker, *Ocmulgee Archeology: A Chronology* (Tallahassee, Fl.: Southeast Archeological Center, 1989), 5-6.

²²*Ibid.*, 6.

²³Marsh, 7.

²⁴Marsh, 7; Walker, 7.

²⁵Marsh, 8-10.

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led by the Macon Historical Society. By 1935, the society owned almost 500 acres of the Ocmulgee Old Fields. A local fundraising effort in May and June of the same year raised \$8,500 to purchase additional lands. Despite subsequent difficulties with the transfer of land to the federal government, on December 23, 1936, a presidential proclamation established the 678-acre Ocmulgee National Monument.²⁶

The excavations that had begun at Ocmulgee in 1933 continued until 1941, when funding was cut due to the war effort. During the early years of the project, excavations had been funded and staffed by the CWA, Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and Works Progress Administration (WPA). The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) were also involved in excavations at Ocmulgee in the late 1930s and early 1940s.²⁷

The National Park Service officially began administration of the Ocmulgee National Monument in December 1936, although it possessed unofficial supervisory powers after the law creating the monument was passed in 1934. Early plans regarding the development of the park culminated in 1939 with the creation of a master plan to guide preservation and construction projects at the mounds and throughout the park.²⁸ The plan included proposals for construction of shelters over some of the mounds and the reconstruction of a number of features. It also proposed construction of a museum and administration building, trails, roads, and parking areas. A revision of the plan in January 1941 contemplated erection of a flagpole near the museum building as well as other minor changes.²⁹ While the outbreak of World War II slowed progress on these projects, many of them were accomplished over time, including the construction of roads, trails, and parking areas.

Construction of a museum and administration building was a top priority for the National Park Service at Ocmulgee. A temporary wood frame museum built in the mid-1930s to house artifacts for public viewing was inadequate, and park officials began planning for a new structure almost immediately upon taking over administration of the park. Two major dilemmas arose regarding the

²⁶Ibid., 10-12, 17.

²⁷Ibid., 20.

²⁸Ibid., 18-19.

²⁹"Master Plan, Ocmulgee National Monument." Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 1939, 1941.

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Visitor Center from the very beginning: the design of the building and funding for its construction.³⁰

Park Service policy in the 1930s favored construction of buildings that were compatible with existing historic structures. At Ocmulgee, however, the only historic building was an antebellum farmhouse that, while significant in its own right, did not relate directly to the primary resources of the park--the Indian mounds. The design arrived at by National Park Service architects was an Art Moderne style building, entirely modern in form; the only reference to park resources in its design was the geometric Art Deco frieze that simulated the design on Lamar Bold Incised Pottery found at the site. The designers connected the building to the landscape as well, aligning the stair on the south side of the terrace with the center of the Earthlodge dome. The choice of design received some criticism; the Field Representative for the National Park Association, Devereaux Butcher, was among the most vocal critics, referring to the building as, "the supremely ugly museum at Georgia's Ocmulgee National Monument" in *National Parks Magazine*.³¹

Problems in obtaining funding for the building persisted throughout the long period of planning and construction. The Park Service initially hoped to begin construction in 1937, but WPA funding was not approved until the following year. From 1938 to 1941 relief workers labored on the building, but the outbreak of World War II limited available money and materials and eventually caused construction to grind to a halt. Workers constructed a temporary roof on the building over the completed pottery lab and office and storage space, and construction on the Visitor Center, just over half completed, stopped until the end of the war.³²

The conclusion of hostilities overseas brought hope that the Visitor Center might finally be completed. In 1947 the project was initially included in the federal budget, but it had to be removed because "competition with private industry for building material was contradictory to Presidential policy."³³ Local supporters were again disappointed in 1948 and 1949. Finally, in 1950, efforts by Congressman Vinson and Senators Walter George and Richard Russell resulted in the inclusion of Ocmulgee in the "rehabilitation" funds appropriated by the National Park Service for critical needs in the parks. Ocmulgee was allotted \$135,000 for the improvement of

³⁰Marsh, 32.

³¹Marsh, 33; "Master Plan."

³²Ibid., 32-34.

³³Ibid., 34.

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the museum-administration building. Work on the Visitor Center resumed in 1950 and was completed one year later. The building was dedicated November 2, 1951.³⁴

The Master Plan of 1941 contemplated the erection of a flagpole somewhere in the area around the Visitor Center. The plan suggested that the pedestal might bear a bronze commemorative plaque, but it deferred judgment regarding placement of the flagstaff until funding was available and a design chosen.³⁵ Park Service architects developed a design in spring 1941, and CCC workers built the flagstaff north of the Visitor's Center the same year. The bronze plaque on the base, which the local Kiwanis Club donated to the park, commemorates the work of the three Macon residents who were instrumental in the establishment of the Ocmulgee National Monument: Walter Alexander Harris, Charles Cotton Harrold, and Linton Munroe Solomon. The plaque was unveiled on October 1, 1941, at the park.³⁶

B. Integrity

The flagstaff and the Visitor Center represent the early phases of park development under the National Park Service at Ocmulgee National Monument. The flagstaff meets National Register Criterion A for its role in the commemorative development of the park. The Visitor Center is already listed on the National Register under Criterion C as a representative example of the Art Moderne style of architecture. Additionally, the Visitor Center is significant under Criterion A for its role in the commemorative development of the park under the National Park Service. Both the Visitor Center and the flagstaff are locally significant historic resources.

The flagstaff and the Visitor Center retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The flagstaff has not been altered since it was constructed at the site in 1941. The Visitor Center has an addition to the rear that has altered the original design of the building but has not adversely affected its integrity.

C. Contributing Properties

Visitor Center
Flagstaff

³⁴Ibid., 34-35.

³⁵"Master Plan."

³⁶"Men Who Helped Build Park Are Honored by Kiwanians," *Macon (Ga.) Telegraph*, 2 October 1941.

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D. Noncontributing Properties

Lamar levee

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Photographs

Ocmulgee National Monument
Bibb County, Georgia
Photos: Jill Hanson
Location of Negatives: NPS, SEFA
May 1995

1. Lamar Palisade Trenches
2. Mound X, view from North
3. Prehistoric trenches, view from West
4. Corn storage pits, view from North
5. Flagstaff, view from South

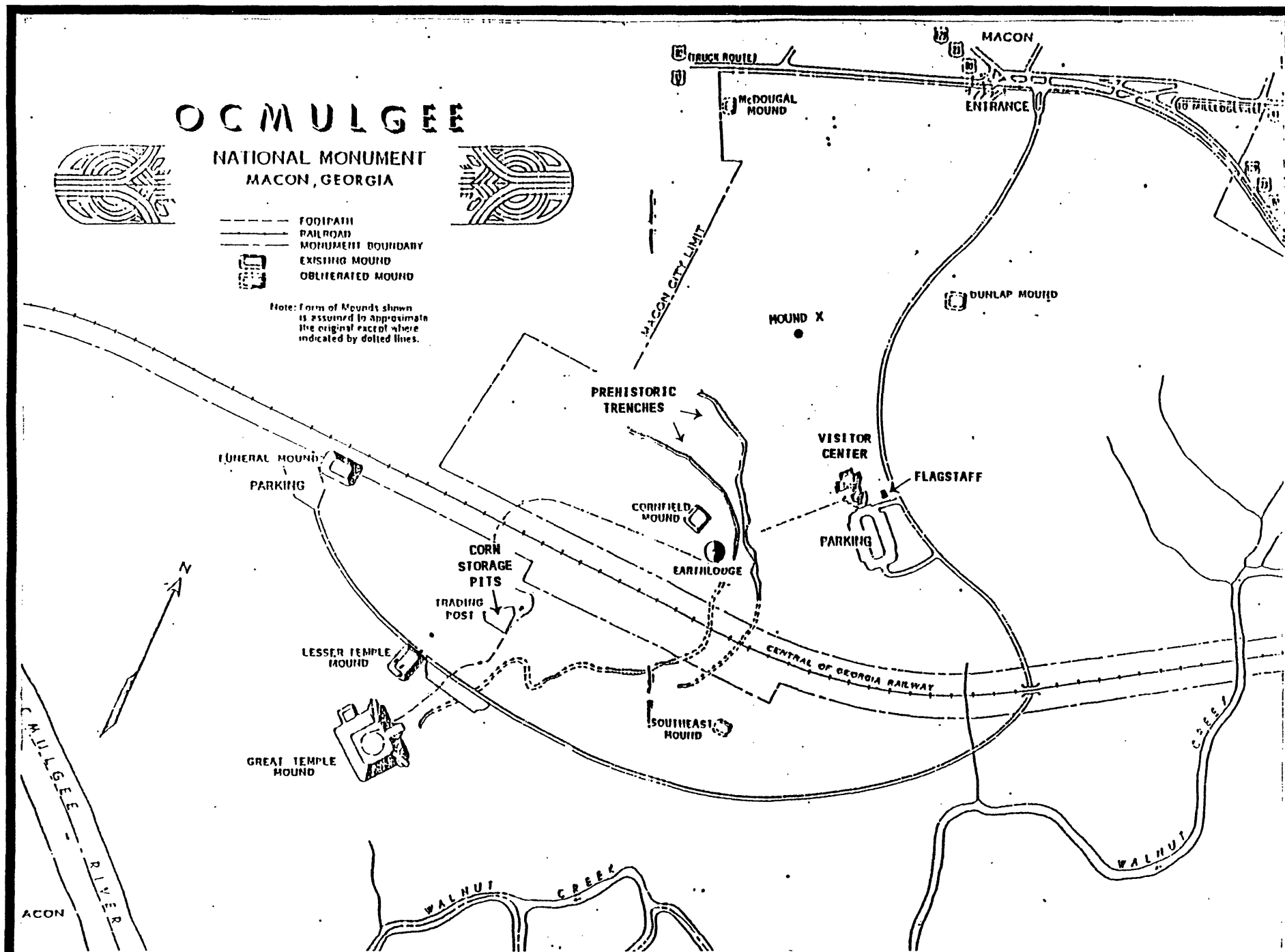
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NATIONAL MONUMENT
MACON, GEORGIA

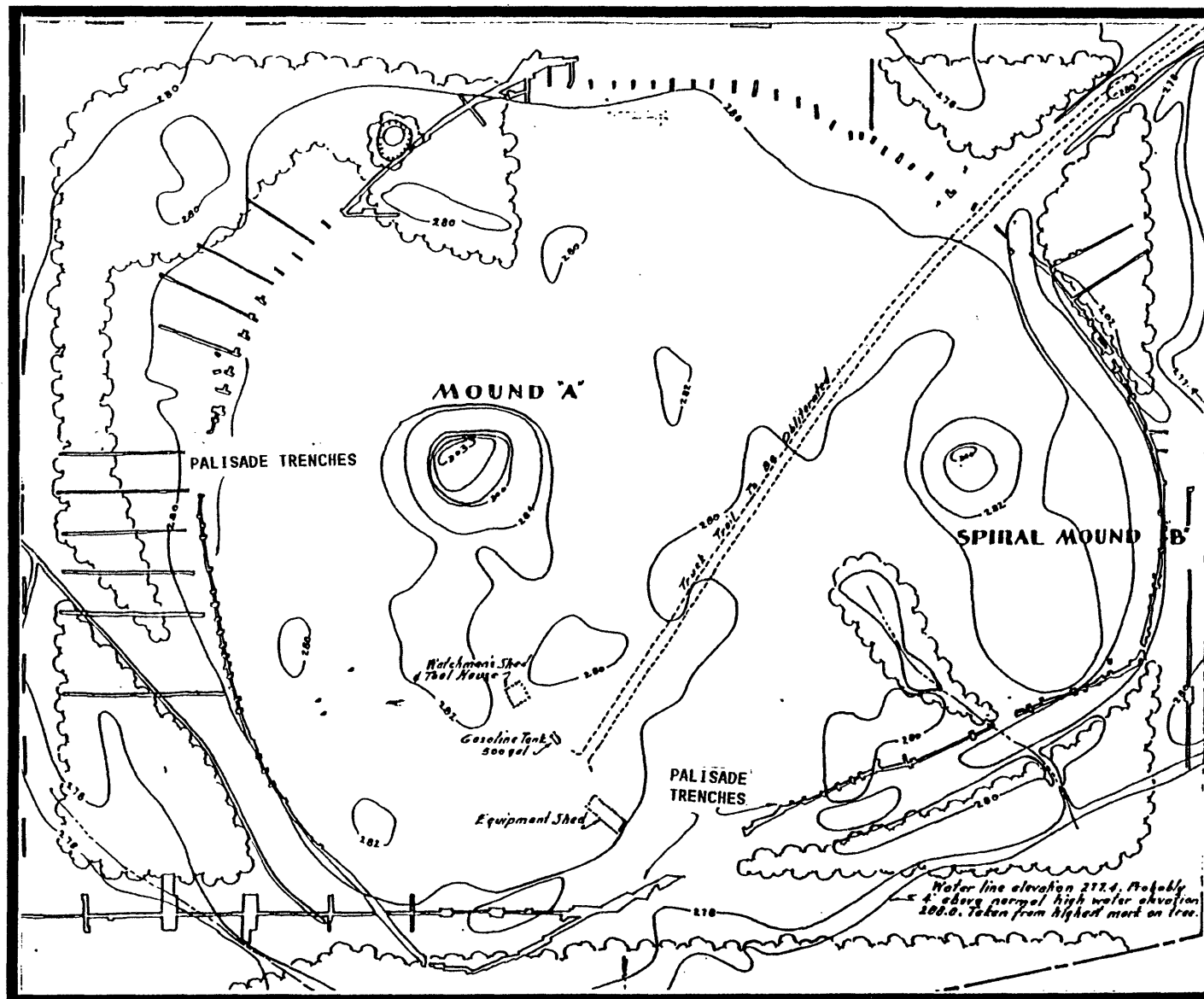


- FOOTPATH
- RAILROAD
- MONUMENT BOUNDARY
- EXISTING MOUND
- OBLITERATED MOUND

Note: Form of Mounds shown is assumed to approximate the original except where indicated by dotted lines.



Ocmulgee National Monument--Main Unit
Macon, Georgia



Ocmulgee National Monument--Lamar Mounds Unit
Macon, Georgia